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NO. 23.

HOW TO CROW SORGHUM.

IT WILL GROW IN ALMOST ANY PLACE WHERE

Indian Corn Will Succeed Best, The Richest and Highest Lands Adapted To It.

PARK, Bowie Co., Tex.—To the News: It is astonishing the number of farmers who do not know how to raise sorghum cane. Of course they all think they do, but the majority of them don't. They think all they have to do is to plow the ground, sow the seed, cultivate it, strip and cut it and take it to the mill. But that is not the half to be done. Good molasses is very scarce, but bad molasses is plentiful. A great many people think it is because of the way cooked, but that is not it. It is because of the way the cane was cultivated and prepared. Now if you want good molasses, that is not too bitter, too sour, tasteless, dyspeptic and inferior in every way, follow my directions in cultivating it.

Sorghum will grow very nearly anywhere that Indian corn will grow. The richest and the highest land is best adapted to it. The land should be thoroughly stirred and kept clean, requiring about the same treatment as Indian corn. It may be either planted in hills or drills. It should never be manured with barnyard manure; that ruins the flavor of the molasses. If the ground is very poor manure it with cotton seed or old rotten cane stalks.

The cane is a very deep rooted plant and it is very essential that the land should be made mellow to a great depth, but the seed should be covered very shallow, not more than an inch deep. It should be planted about the same time as corn. When the young plants first come up they look like blades of grass. They are of slow growth and weak appearance for some time, or until the hot weather of July and August, when the plants will grow far ahead of the corn in rank and healthy growth.

Sorghum delights in hot dry weather, as its roots penetrate deep. Drouth does not affect it as it does corn. It is surprising to see at what a rate it will develop itself after the hot weather has come. It is also very hard and may be transplanted with safety. The suckers should be kept pulled off. Although we may lose a little in quantity it is more than made up in the quality of the molasses.

I have a deep, mellow soil for the roots to penetrate in search of food by thoroughly cultivating it during the early stages of its growth. A good deep plowing after the cane has once acquired considerable size, as the roots then fill the ground, as if severed the plants are generally dwarfed. Be sure and not let a weed or grass show its head.

The cane should be topped about eight weeks before cutting it, as

that improves the flavor. It would be well to leave some stalks to mature for seed, as the seed topped off early, would be too green to save for the next year's planting. The cane should be stripped entirely of the fodder and cut as close to the ground as possible without getting the ends on the ground, as dirt and sand will stick to it, making the molasses very gritty. When the cane is pressed and the juice is ready for the evaporator put a little lime in the juice before boiling it will prove useful, both by materializing acid and be combining with organic principles which interfere with clarification.

JACOB SMITHERS.

Villages in southeastern Pennsylvania, and even hundreds (townships) in Delaware, not infrequently take their names from old inns. Bird in Hand, Lancaster county, Pa., is an example of the sort, and in northern Delaware the old Red Lion inn has given name to a village and a hundred. The village and the hundred of Black Bird in Delaware also probably take the common name from the sign of an old inn. Fox Chase, in the lower edge of Chester county, Pa., was the picturesque name of a village that grew up about an ancient tavern, but the postoffice department has ruthlessly changed it to Appleton.

However men may differ in their opinions on the questions involved in the labor problem—and to their discussion we shall recur again, and to our views thereon we shall give frank and free expression—there is substantially no difference in America upon the proposition that government can not be exercised by private individuals, and that if they attempt to do it and to enforce their will on the community by fire and sword they are to be regarded as criminals and treated accordingly. [Christian Union.]

In one feature at least the democratic party is harmonious. Its candidate and its platform are a unit upon the tariff issue. Conservative members of the party have endeavored to convince the public that the radical free trade plank adopted at Chicago was formulated without the advice or consent of Mr. Cleveland. Be that as it may the ex-president in his formal speech last night accepting the nomination for the presidency for the third time allowed no room for doubt as to his position. [Pittsburg Dispatch.]

The selection of Mr. George Shiras, jr., of Pennsylvania for the office of associate justice of the United States supreme court adds another to the long list of President Harrison's excellent judicial appointments. The choice is unexceptionable in every way. Mr. Shiras stands at the head of his profession in his state, and he has had no part in political controversies or rivalries. [Boston Journal.]

It is estimated that there are now 6,335 postmistresses in this country.

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